

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS.

ISSUED WEEKLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

VOLUME 7.

NOVEMBER 28, 1923.

NO. 22.

CROP PROSPECTS.

FALL PLANTINGS FOR 1924.

Canada has sown 767,200 acres of fall wheat compared with 947,900 acres in 1922. Fall wheat, however, represented only 4 per cent of the total wheat acreage in 1923. The acreage this fall is a 19 per cent decrease from the sown acreage in 1922 and a 6 per cent decrease from the acreage harvested.

The condition of fall wheat is average for the Dominion, Ontario reporting considerably above. Fall plowing, generally, was delayed in the western provinces. Of land intended for next year's crop 43 per cent has been plowed as against 48 per cent last year.

CORN

Corn production in Roumania is now estimated at 174,124,000 bushels in a radio received November 25 from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. This compares with 116,050,000 bushels last year.

POTATOES.

The total production of potatoes reported to date from 20 countries is 3,504,329,000 bushels compared with 4,512,530,000 bushels last year. This indicates a decrease of about 22 per cent in the total production for 1923. Only two countries, Spain and Hungary report increased production in 1923. Last year these same 20 countries produced 70.4 per cent of the total production.

TRADE PRICE AND PRODUCTION NOTES.

The United States imports between 8,000,000 and 9,000,000 pounds of chicle annually, more than two thirds of these imports coming from Mexico. British Honduras is our second source of supply.

In 1923, the United States imported 93,000 long tons of sisal grass as compared with the prewar average of 140,000 tons, a decrease of 30 per cent. Mexico supplies about 90 per cent of these imports.

During the last few years, exports of agricultural products from the United States to Mexico show a big increase, the increase in exports of eggs, lard, condensed, evaporated and powdered milk being especially noticeable. In 1923, 6,600,000 dozen more eggs were exported to Mexico than the average for the prewar years, or an increase of 944 per cent; 38,000,000 pounds more lard, an increase of 570 per cent and 3,000,000 pounds more condensed, evaporated and powdered milk, an increase of 332 per cent.

Exports of meats and meat products from the United States for the 4 months ending October 31, 1923 amounted to 715,000,000 pounds as against 591,000,000 pounds during the same period a year ago. This was an increase of 21 per cent. Exports of bacon, hams and lard made up most of this increase.

Exports of principal agricultural products from the United States for the 4 months, July 1 to October 31, 1923 were valued at \$404,000,000 as compared with \$602,000,000 a year ago, a decrease of more than 33 per cent. Smaller shipments of grains and cotton account for most of this decrease.

LIVESTOCK IN GERMANY.

Reports from certain provinces indicate that livestock in Germany has increased from 3 per cent in case of cattle to 21 per cent in the case of hogs during the year 1923. Indications are that sheep increased 11 per cent and goats 13 per cent. These estimates do not take into account the fall slaughterings between October 1 and December 1. The estimate for the whole of the German Republic is made as of December 1.

PRODUCTION OF POTATOES IN COUNTRIES REPORTING FOR 1923.

Potatoes.	Production.		Per Cent of 1922.	
	1922.	1923.	Decrease.	Increase.
	1,000 bushels:	1,000 bushels:	Per Cent	Per Cent
Estimates previously received and unrevised, 4 countries reporting.....	214,881	131,930	38.6	
Estimates recently received:				
Canada.....	92,903	87,590	5.7	
United States.....	451,185	416,722	7.6	
England and Wales.....	149,781	99,568	33.5	
Norway.....	32,699	28,610	12.5	
Sweden.....	74,783	61,251	18.1	
Belgium.....	144,453	88,853	38.4	
Luxemburg.....	7,007	6,173	11.9	
Spain.....	108,598	95,497	12.1	
Italy.....	53,689	62,464		16.3
Germany.....	1,494,181	1,156,305	22.6	
Czechoslovakia.....	333,236	231,066	30.7	
Hungary.....	48,490	63,043		30.0
Poland.....	1,220,575	903,443	25.9	
Lithuania.....	67,903	55,171	18.7	
Finland.....	16,009	15,816	1.2	
Algeria.....	2,146	327	61.4	
Total 20 countries.....	4,512,530	3,504,329	22.3	
All countries reporting 1922.....	6,409,608			

Source: Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture, Rome.

PRODUCTION OF SUGAR BEETS IN COUNTRIES REPORTING FOR 1923.

Country.	Production.		Per Cent of 1922.	
	Estimates 1922.	Forecasts 1923.	Decrease.	Increase.
	1,000 Short Tons.	1,000 Short Tons.	Per Cent	Per Cent
Estimates previously received and unrevised, 13 countries reporting.....	26,845	27,209		1.4
Estimates recently received: United States.....	5,183	6,667		28.6
Total 19 countries reporting.....	32,028	33,876		5.8

Source: Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture.

ARGENTINE FLAXSEED CROP.

Production of flaxseed in Argentina is estimated at 75,980,000 bushels for 1923-24 as compared with 44,280,000 bushels for 1922-23, according to a report from the Argentine Embassy quoting the Ministry of Statistics and Rural Economy. Area sown has increased from 4,194,000 acres to 5,300,000 acres. These figures show an increase of 72 per cent in total production.

EXPORTS OF GRAINS AND WHEAT FLOUR FROM THE PRINCIPAL EXPORTING COUNTRIES, IMPORTS OF WHEAT AND WHEAT FLOUR INTO THE UNITED STATES, AND SHIPMENTS OF CANADIAN WHEAT AND WHEAT FLOUR THROUGH THE UNITED STATES IN TRANSIT, JULY TO OCTOBER, 1922 AND 1923, AND NOVEMBER 3 TO NOVEMBER 24, 1923.

Commodity:	Unit:	July to October :		1923		
		1922 :	1923 :	Week ending: Nov. 10 :	Week ending: Nov. 17 :	Week ending: Nov. 17 :
				Preliminary:	Preliminary:	Preliminary:
Exports from U.S.:		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Barley.....	Bu.	11,215	6,867	20	115	419
Corn.....	"	46,171	3,574	79	150	215
Oats.....	"	13,365	820	131	76	83
Rye.....	"	20,726	8,082	86	141	653
Wheat.....	"	92,951	47,689	1,380	1,935	2,717
Wheat flour.....	Bbls.	4,901	5,818	359	458	464
Wheat, including flour..	Bu.	115,004	73,868	2,997	3,995	4,805
Imports into U.S.:						
Wheat.....	Bu.	7,570	6,500			
Wheat flour.....	Bbls.	179	70			
Wheat, including flour..	Bu.	8,376	6,815			
In transit shipments from Canada:						
Wheat.....	Bu.	13,886	26,882	1,251	1,565	1,462
Wheat flour.....	Bbls.	616	1,068	15	2	10
(1) Exports from Canada:						
Wheat.....	Bu.	67,900	58,454			
Wheat flour.....	Bbls.	2,630	3,044			
Wheat, including flour..	Bu.	79,735	72,151			
Exports from Argentina:						
Wheat.....	Bu.	33,311	34,986			
Corn.....	"	38,938	52,254			
Exports from British India:						
Wheat, including flour....	Bu.	849	9,200			
Exports from Australia:						
Wheat, including flour....	Bu.	9,373	16,365			

(1) Includes "In transit shipments from Canada".

SOURCE: Monthly Summaries of Foreign Commerce of the United States and other Preliminary Reports of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Monthly Reports of the Trade of Canada, Estadística Agro-Pecuaría, International Yearbook of Agricultural Statistics, 1922, and Broomhall's Corn Trade News.

WHEAT AND WHEAT FLOUR: EXPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES DURING OCTOBER,
1922 AND 1923.

	Wheat including flour: in terms of grain.		Wheat.		Wheat flour.	
	July-Oct. 1922.	July-Oct. 1923.	Oct. 1922.	Oct. 1923.	Oct. 1922.	Oct. 1923.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Barrels.	Barrels.
Belgium.....	6,359,036	3,136,500	834,799	435,494	5,119	5,718
Denmark.....	253,228	427,206	---	7,625	15,132	32,878
Estonia.....	85,959	19,269	---	---	1,628	2,348
Finland.....	693,027	1,069,500	---	---	47,387	79,134
France.....	9,131,224	2,051,101	2,445,902	282,618	657	339
Germany.....	8,510,020	3,554,076	299,906	28,062	155,128	182,788
Gibraltar.....	1,051,998	1,130	297,000	---	301	---
Greece.....	76,184	809,388	---	---	10,314	57,343
Italy.....	15,133,263	2,830,410	3,980,910	317,789	17,916	10,268
Malta, Gozo, Cyprus	221,452	110,024	18,317	16,149	2,133	714
Netherlands.....	9,906,775	6,113,394	695,386	562,122	105,884	182,869
Norway.....	1,663,735	262,131	550,875	67,200	20,144	23,267
Poland & Danzig..	33,440	100,854	---	---	5,638	9,612
Russia in Europe.	1,136,060	1,134	---	---	75,980	---
Sweden.....	402,234	486,352	24,000	36,165	9,325	22,823
Turkey in Europe.	983,502	264,005	---	---	73,069	5,432
Ukraine.....	440,504	---	---	---	250	---
United Kingdom..	20,302,193	12,265,181	3,185,964	2,494,636	191,076	149,108
Other Europe.....	123,589	78,206	1,867	---	9,122	4,199
TOTAL EUROPE..	76,507,428	33,629,861	12,334,926	4,247,860	746,203	768,840
Canada.....	22,775,448	16,281,146	4,140,695	836,533	8,124	10,635
Cuba.....	1,519,568	1,518,929	1,917	3,711	92,586	88,748
Mexico.....	592,626	1,386,779	82,961	179,069	29,160	46,574
Panama.....	141,700	975,108	---	---	3,389	4,598
China.....	2,439,680	8,706,458	150,003	2,886,469	207,175	557,829
Hongkong.....	1,713,162	1,445,823	---	---	100,685	103,416
Kwantung.....	939,218	1,090,161	---	---	51,000	181,258
Japan.....	3,356,662	4,018,314	1,413,639	1,073,759	19,430	11,507
Other countries..	5,018,896	4,815,445	157,999	11,233	252,300	318,517
TOTAL.....	115,004,388	73,868,024	18,282,140	9,238,634	1,510,052	2,091,922
Total imports....	8,375,666	6,814,757	2,566,109	2,833,673	50,684	19,383
Total re-exports.	53,033	1,822	51,769	(1) ---	281	(1) 405
EXCESS EXPORTS...	106,681,755	67,055,089	15,767,800	6,404,961	1,459,649	2,072,944

Source: Official Reports of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

(1) Not yet available, July to September only.

CONSUMPTION AND STOCK OF COTTON IN GERMANY

Decreased consumption of cotton by German mills during the season just ended as compared with the pre-war average consumption is reported to the United States Department of Agriculture by the American Agricultural Commissioner, Mr. E. C. Squire, at Berlin, under date of October 30. Consumption during the 1922-23 season is placed at 853,500 bales as compared with 1,874,000 bales, the average for the three years 1911-13. This is a drop of over 1,000,000 bales or approximately 54%. A portion of this reduction is accounted for by the fact that 2,000,000 spindles were in Alsace and therefore Germany's spindles were reduced in 1920 by that number, a reduction of about 17%.

Consumption of American cotton by German mills amounted to 622,500 bales this year as compared with the pre-war average of 1,404,000 bales, or a decrease of about 56%. Due to the increasing lack of credit facilities, the present supply of cotton goods in Germany is almost as low as it was at the end of the war when the country was practically bare of all cotton products. To remedy this situation the Association of German Cotton Spinners is urging that American bankers and shippers grant more favorable commercial and financial credits.

There was a great demand for raw cotton in Germany at the beginning of 1919, as the supplies of cotton goods had been entirely exhausted during the blockade of the previous three years. Consumption consequently increased steadily from 485,000 bales during the 1919-20 season to 1,083,000 bales in 1921-22. The same upward trend was noted in stocks held in the mills, these having increased from 68,400 bales on July 31, 1920, to 176,000 bales on July 31, 1922. Increased purchases were stimulated by the expectation that a solution would be found for the reparations problem, thus enabling the stabilization of German currency. Subsequent events caused a rapid decrease in the purchases of raw cotton so that consumption during 1922-23 was 229,500 bales below that for the previous twelve months, while stocks in mills on July 31, 1923, amounted to only 90,000 bales.

Before the war much of the cotton consumed in Germany was contracted for before it left the United States. Due to the development of financial difficulties after the war, the mills were able to purchase only from stocks actually on hand in Bremen. The continual decrease in their working capital, however, forced still further adjustments, so that at present American dealers ship direct to the warehouses of the more responsible German mills, receiving cash payment as the cotton is removed for spinning. The Association of German Cotton Spinners is urging that American dealers accept a short term acceptance (60 or 90 days) instead of cash payment.

CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF COTTON IN GERMANY, CONT'D.

Such other facilities as have been provided for the marketing of American cotton include a system of merchandise credits whereby credits are granted for three months at from 10 to 15% per annum. The Association of German Cotton Spinners believes that such a high rate of interest works to the detriment of all concerned. If these interest charges are added to the cost of the finished product, it means adding on to the already prohibitive prices for the German consumer. If the interest charges are not added on, it means that an extremely large percentage of the profits of the mills will have to be used for paying interest. Spinners state that if American dealers could extend these same credits from three to six months at a rate of interest ranging from 5 1/2 to 7 1/2%, depending on the nature of the transaction, the sale of cotton goods in Germany would receive a great impetus. The Dutch Government has granted German industries a credit of about 140,000,000 guilders (\$56,280,000 at par) for the purchase of raw materials. The Credit Association which handles this fund and looks after the securities and repayment of loans states that the larger part of it is being used for financing purchases of raw material from the United States. The German cotton mills are also making use of this credit. The rate of interest charged is 6 1/2%.

The following table gives complete and up-to-date figures for the consumption and stocks of cotton in Germany since the war.

Season	Consumption		Carryover in German Mills.	
	Total	American	Total	American
	Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales
1911-13 Average (old boundaries)	1,874,000	1,404,000	-----	-----
Aug. 1, 1919-July 31, 1920 (new boundaries)	485,000	356,000	68,400	36,400
Aug. 1, 1920-Jan. 31, 1921	393,000	265,000	132,000	85,000
Feb. 1, 1921-July 31, 1921	457,000	344,000	176,000	120,000
Aug. 1, 1921-Jan. 31, 1922	535,000	406,000	185,000	131,500
Feb. 1, 1922-July 31, 1922	548,000	421,000	176,000	116,500
Aug. 1, 1922-Jan. 31, 1923	488,500	360,500	98,000	60,300
Feb. 1, 1923-July 31, 1923	365,000	262,000	90,000	52,000

EXPORTS OF PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FROM THE UNITED STATES FROM JULY 1,
TO OCTOBER 31, 1922 AND 1923.

Article Exported:	Quantity	Quantity	Value	Value
	1922	1923	1922	1923
			Dollars	Dollars
Wheat.....Bu.	92,950,788:	47,688,563:	114,053,984:	53,489,553
Wheat flour.....Bbls.	4,900,800:	5,817,658:	27,305,912:	30,120,282
Wheat, including flour..Bu.	115,004,388:	73,868,024:	141,359,896:	83,609,840
Corn, including meal.....Bu.	46,774,048:	4,213,390:	35,072,814:	4,255,766
Rye, including flour.....Bu.	20,816,278:	8,254,517:	17,788,919:	6,579,152
Barley, excluding flour..Bu.	11,215,473:	6,865,649:	8,032,194:	5,091,901
Oats, including oatmeal..Bu.	15,636,331:	4,285,512:	7,941,552:	2,501,288
Buckwheat, incl., flour..Bu.	20,550:	13,029:	24,542:	16,137
Rice, incl., flour, meal, & broken rice.....Lbs.	86,246,380:	93,247,054:	3,394,061:	3,395,611
Dairy Products:				
Butter.....Lbs.	5,220,855:	1,677,032:	1,905,232:	732,031
Cheese.....Lbs.	1,383,575:	1,273,196:	341,716:	352,655
Milk:				
Condensed.....Lbs.	13,158,840:	19,290,135:	1,722,853:	2,886,738
Evaporated.....Lbs.	33,525,404:	34,523,055:	2,795,708:	3,612,325
Powdered.....Lbs.	987,594:	678,740:	145,560:	173,735
Meat & Meat Products:				
Canned beef.....Lbs.	1,017,173:	520,123:	272,571:	143,468
Fresh beef & veal.....Lbs.	1,180,654:	1,028,232:	170,342:	157,750
Pickled beef.....Lbs.	9,847,275:	8,675,920:	831,107:	2,172,470
Oleo oil.....Lbs.	35,187,946:	33,593,347:	3,793,055:	3,781,703
Oleomargarine.....Lbs.	649,702:	569,749:	99,929:	92,410
Stearin & fatty acids..Lbs.	7,812,385:	6,244,015:	729,456:	644,976
Tallow.....Lbs.	8,785,882:	17,819,958:	702,852:	1,387,582
Canned pork.....Lbs.	769,572:	770,127:	285,602:	257,948
Fresh pork.....Lbs.	9,064,250:	14,617,931:	1,462,270:	2,074,350
Pickled pork.....Lbs.	14,855,932:	17,173,065:	1,770,619:	1,929,954
Bacon.....Lbs.	124,472,814:	152,434,738:	19,331,441:	19,710,110
Hams & Shoulders.....Lbs.	88,110,971:	130,274,700:	17,746,825:	20,708,842
Lard.....Lbs.	262,416,678:	313,244,758:	32,083,552:	38,869,555
Lard neutral.....Lbs.	7,242,800:	3,881,390:	953,666:	1,744,201
Lard oil.....Lbs.	318,917:	311,047:	38,499:	35,958
Lard compounds.....Lbs.	5,094,678:	2,407,149:	617,102:	319,735
Mutton & Lamb.....Lbs.	523,850:	802,987:	97,575:	152,611
Sausage, canned.....Lbs.	529,496:	675,698:	172,244:	139,406
Sausage, other.....Lbs.	2,865,894:	3,009,458:	794,978:	757,725
Sausage, casings.....Lbs.	9,959,355:	7,289,929:	2,162,784:	1,616,333
TOTAL meats and meat products.....Lbs.	590,706,224:	715,344,381:	84,116,469:	96,747,087

EXPORTS OF PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FROM THE UNITED STATES FROM JULY 1,
TO OCTOBER 31, 1922 AND 1923.--CONTINUED.

Article Exported:	: Quantity	: Quantity	: Value	: Value
	: 1922	: 1923	: 1922	: 1923
	:	:	Dollars	Dollars
Sugar.....Lbs.:	330,942,507:	50,827,722:	14,212,494:	1,998,429
Cotton, 500 lb. bales.....Lbs.:	1,879,663:	1,538,110:	210,229,915:	117,153,548
Tobacco, incl., trimmings.....Lbs.:	55,214,726:	166,433,870:	48,879,540:	49,859,330
Glucose (corn syrup).....Lbs.:	60,787,422:	33,624,387:	1,716,619:	1,158,313
Starch, corn.....Lbs.:	119,756,862:	62,466,358:	2,937,399:	1,946,488
Hops.....Lbs.:	771,130:	5,643,371:	122,326:	1,959,952
Cottonseed cake & meal.....Lbs.:	185,957,698:	78,383,598:	3,858,953:	1,676,509
Linseed cake & meal.....Lbs.:	145,704,644:	161,783,900:	4,739,515:	3,266,523
Cottonseed oil.....Lbs.:	11,673,673:	8,238,412:	1,236,366:	900,556
Fruits:	:	:	:	:
Apples, fresh.....Bbls:	1,430,254:	1,317,084:	2,501,431:	7,241,813
Apples, dried.....Lbs.:	2,652,306:	3,582,880:	302,810:	307,662
Prunes.....Lbs.:	17,639,946:	18,750,162:	1,627,575:	1,560,828
Apricots.....Lbs.:	7,579,480:	12,191,908:	1,864,009:	1,380,892
Raisins.....Lbs.:	31,823,441:	36,203,907:	3,568,362:	3,464,112
GRAND TOTAL.....	:	:	602,438,831:	403,829,221

Source: Official Reports of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

ITALY ENCOURAGES WHEAT PRODUCTION.

In an attempt to produce its own wheat supply, a contest has been arranged in Italy with prizes for the successful competitors. Ten money prizes will be awarded ranging from 5,000 lire to 250 lire. In addition to money prizes, 100 certificates of merit will be awarded to those having the next highest yields. In order to be eligible to compete, a farmer must grow at least 1 hectare of wheat and must register with the local agricultural society, agricultural school, or Fascisti Syndicate by April 1, 1924. The Government is furnishing the money.

Production of wheat in Italy in 1923 exceeded the average production for the last ten years by 52,400,000 bushels. This will considerably reduce the amount of wheat necessary to be imported from foreign countries. According to "La Voce," October 27, 1923, this reduces the amount of money which will be expended from foreign wheat by 1 1/2 billion lire.

The Fascisti attribute the increased production to the favorable crop season which has just passed, together with a greater feeling of security and the renewed energy of the farmers under the Fascisti Government. The article states that low yields in certain sections are not justified, when compared with abundant yields in the more progressive regions. Under the proper methods of cultivation, it is believed that Italy will be able to produce its own bread supply.

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN MEXICO.

Mexico has an average density of population of about 22 people per square mile according to the latest estimates of population. The total area of the country is 766,141 square miles. Internal troubles have been a great hindrance to Mexican agriculture during the past ten or twelve years. In fact statistical information has been decidedly lacking. The census of 1910 covered population only and the returns of the agricultural census taken recently are not yet available to the public. In 1922, however, the Ministry of Agriculture made an estimate of the acreage and production of the principal crops. These estimates appear elsewhere in this issue.

Corn is the principal crop in Mexico, and in 1907 the production was over 200,000,000 bushels. It is also the chief food product for the population. Beans, chick peas, sisal and coffee are other crops of importance.

In Mexico agriculture has generally taken second place in the list of national industries. In other words, mining has been, and perhaps still is the chief export resource of the country. Yet there are soil and climatic factors suitable to a considerable expansion in agriculture.

Mexico furnishes an important market for American pork products, wheat, cattle, eggs and canned milk. Although corn is the most important of the Mexican crops, being the staple diet for most of the population, domestic production in 1922 had to be supplemented by imports of 3,350,000 bushels from the United States, and by almost 12,000,000 bushels during 1921 when Mexico had a poor crop.

Exports of lard from the United States to Mexico during 1922 totaled 43,900,000 lbs. Exports of other pork products, chiefly ham and shoulders, amounted to more than 1,400,000 lbs. In the same year, we exported to that country 2,847,200 bushels of wheat 9,072,000 dozen of eggs, and over 3,500,000 lbs. of condensed, evaporated and dried milk. We also exported to Mexico 71,173 head of cattle valued at \$2,408,900, many of them being pure blooded pedigreed animals.

Our chief imports of Mexican agricultural commodities in 1922 included 78,000 short tons of fibers and textile grasses, chiefly henequin sisal from Yucatan, 20,079,957 lbs. of raw cotton, 37,800,973 lbs. of coffee, 41,803,268 lbs. of cane sugar, and \$2,289,551 worth of fruits and vegetables.

Lack of proper distribution and storage facilities constitute one of the greatest hindrances to agricultural development in Mexico, according to Consul Thomas A. Bowman at Mexico City. The domestic corn crop during recent years, he says, would have supplied the needs of the population if it could have been conserved and distributed over the non-productive periods. There are no large granaries nor any organized cold storage facilities, and the climate is such that grain cannot be kept any length of time without scientific care. Not only are transportation facilities inadequate but the present cost of the service is so high that farmers living long distances from large consuming centers are unable to ship their products at a profit. They depend solely on local markets for an outlet.

The Consul reports further that Mexican agriculture in general is passing through an interesting phase of development. The bulk of the farming is carried on by a limited class of planters who own enormous areas of land. The prevailing threat of confiscation of large estates under the Agrarian Law has caused these estate owners to reduce planting. It has also made it difficult for them to obtain credit should they desire to plant more extensively. The purpose of the Agrarian Law is to break up the estates and develop a class of independent small farmers from the peons. Preliminary to the development of such a class, however, it will be necessary to educate the peon in modern agricultural methods and to give him financial assistance.

Imports of agricultural machinery into Mexico during the past three years have greatly declined. The Consul states that the books of the largest American concerns supplying the Mexican market show that sales in 1922 were but 25% of those in 1921. The lack of progress made in agricultural methods and the comparative low cost of labor have no doubt operated to minimize the advantages of labor saving devices. In many districts of Mexico, farming methods are still primitive although the Federal Ministry of Agriculture is now actively engaged in encouraging improved methods of agriculture.

POPULATION.

There has been an increase of nearly 2,000,000 in the population of Mexico since 1910, according to estimates made public by the Pan American Union. The 1910 census of population gave a total of 15,054,121 for all of Mexico. The estimates for 1921 total 17,005,000. These estimates do not indicate unusual increases in certain particular States, but are more or less general throughout the whole of Mexico. The one possible exception to this is the State of Tamaulipas, where the population is estimated to have increased from 249,253 in 1910 to 400,000 in 1921. Tamaulipas includes a goodly portion of the Tampico oil district, and it is probable that the increase in population is largely industrial.

CONSERVATION OF RURAL POPULATION IN MEXICO.

The Mexican Department of Agriculture is taking active measures for the conservation of her rural population. A campaign for the upbuilding of the farm, through the farm home, is already well on its way among the villages of the central States. Two railway cars were granted for the purpose by the President of Mexico, one serving as a hall for the small hamlets where no public building is available, and the other car to be used as living quarters for the persons who are carrying on the campaign. The exhibit centers around colored posters, including such subjects as sanitary housing, food selection, home hygiene, child care, food values, and education.

Source: Bulletin of Pan-American Union, May, 1923, page 453.

AREA AND POPULATION OF MEXICO, 1910 AND 1921.

States	Square miles	Census, 1910	Estimated, 1921
Aguascalientes	2,969	118,978	125,000
Campeche	18,086	85,795	90,000
Chiapas	27,222	436,817	560,000
Chihuahua	89,974	405,265	500,000
Coahuila	63,728	367,652	400,000
Colima	2,172	77,704	80,000
Durango	42,265	436,147	500,000
Guanajuato	10,948	1,075,270	1,100,000
Guerrero	24,995	605,437	750,000
Hidalgo	3,575	641,895	750,000
Jalisco	33,496	1,202,802	1,280,000
Mexico	8,849	975,019	1,100,000
Michoacan	22,656	991,649	1,050,000
Morelos	2,733	179,814	210,000
Nayarit	10,951	171,837	200,000
Nuevo Leon	23,678	368,929	420,000
Oaxaca	35,382	1,041,035	1,100,000
Puebla	12,203	1,092,456	1,100,000
Queretaro	4,492	243,515	260,000
San Luis Potosi	25,323	624,748	700,000
Sinaloa	27,552	323,499	400,000
Sonora	76,619	262,545	350,000
Tabasco	10,072	183,708	210,000
Tamaulipas	31,758	249,253	400,000
Tlaxcala	1,594	183,805	210,000
Veracruz	29,283	1,124,368	1,400,000
Yucatan	15,939	327,911	390,000
Zacatecas	24,457	475,863	500,000
Lower California, Territory ...	53,328	52,244	60,000
Quintana Roo, Territory	19,264	9,109	10,000
Federal District	578	719,052	800,000
Total	766,141	15,054,121	17,005,000

Source: Pan American Union Bulletin entitled "Mexico," page 18, 1921.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN MEXICO

Information on agricultural production in Mexico during the period 1907 and 1922 is very limited. The information for 1922 indicates general decreases in the major crops. This is difficult to explain in the face of an increase of 2,000,000 in population. For example, production of corn in 1907 was about 206,000,000 bushels. In 1922 the reported production is 68,000,000 bushels. The production per acre according to the 1922 estimates is comparable with pre-war production, but the amount available per capita consumption is about one-third. It would seem that the production data for 1922 are incomplete.

ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION OF CEREALS, LEGUMES AND VEGETABLES IN MEXICO.

Crop	Acreage		Production	
	1922	1907	1922	
	Acres	Bushels	Bushels	
Corn	4,284,479	205,736,703	68,260,128	
Barley	697,030	10,839,662	3,886,767	
Wheat	1,419,444	11,467,945	13,626,064	
Vetch	899	360,042	26,711	
Kidney beans	2,841,650	5,997,399	4,232,389	
Chick peas	87,417	1,543,119	1,949,787	
Broad beans	11,105	973,297	330,300	
Lentils	329	41,669	4,897	
Castor beans	79	30,441	8,111	
Potatoes	623,483	48,120,579	927,109	
Sweet potatoes ...	3,180	1,093,376	928,360	
Red tomatoes	20,470	444,620	971,663	
		Pounds	Pounds	
Rice	54,132	44,752,475	44,489,428	
Cabbage	10	14,989,042	174,163	
Onions	4,334	21,531,557	34,006	
Garlic	6,694	4,639,312	298,679	
Mangos	185	47,002,559	13,231,899	
Yuco	51	8,061,155	6,128,788	

Source: "Quarterly Synopsis" of actual yield for the year, 1922, issued by the Mexican Secretary of Agriculture; and 1913 Anuario Estadístico, Mexico.

AREA AND PRODUCTION OF FRUIT AND NUTS IN MEXICO, 1907 AND 1922.

Crops	Acreage 1922	Production	
		1907	1922
	Acres	Pounds	Pounds
<u>Fruit:</u>			
Pumpkins.....	1,107	56,380,654	98,766,080
Oranges.....	13,343	83,813,568	23,811,885
Pineapples.....	227	11,483,230	30,423,480
Bananas.....	10,766	72,044,454
Cantaloupes.....	106,196	473,739,880
Melons.....	25	18,638,802	11,023,000
Sugar apple.....	198	2,138,951	1,322,760
		<u>Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels</u>
Apples.....	111	2,335,542	629
Peaches.....	49	1,520,147	689
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
<u>Nuts:</u>			
Coquito nuts.....	284	61,728
Coconuts.....	2,471	17,091,904	2,317,035
Walnuts.....	49	3,353,505	94,798
		<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>
Peanuts	10,789	5,061	1,443

Source: "Quarterly Synopsis" of actual yield for the year 1922, issued by the Mexican Secretary of Agriculture.

THE NEW LAND TAX IN MEXICO.

The new land tax of one-tenth of 1 per cent, which was established by decree of October 11, 1922, has been the object of vigorous protests from agricultural interests in Mexico. The date for the enforcement of this decree has been postponed from time to time and is now fixed at January 1, 1924.

Meantime, the new secretary of Hacienda has announced a conference of representative landowners to meet in Mexico City and study the law carefully, presumably with the view to amendments. It is predicted in some quarters that the law is to be repealed, but there is no official indication of this.

Source: Consul Thomas D. Bowman, Mexico City, October 19, report appearing in Commerce Reports, November 19, 1923, page 519.

ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION OF FIBER AND INDUSTRIAL CROPS IN MEXICO.

Crops.	Acreage.	Production.	
	1922.	1907.	1922.
	<u>Acres.</u>	<u>Bales.</u>	<u>Bales.</u>
<u>Fiber:</u>			
Cotton.....	242,277	155,115	178,236
		<u>1,000 Pounds.</u>	<u>1,000 Pounds.</u>
Sisal.....	448,568	249,317	269,843
Flax.....	912	16,151	4,067
Ixtle (fiber)	71,286	138,378	25,441
<u>Industrial:</u>			
Sugarcane.....	111,000	6,089,147	4,849,257
Tobacco.....	12,938	42,869	23,085
Chili peppers....	45,310	29,350	40,873
Cacao.....	4,198	6,854	1,498
Coffee.....	499,011	110,480	89,043
Vanilla.....	2,580	626	230
		<u>Busheis.</u>	<u>Busheis.</u>
Sesame.....	49,506	6,480,910	9,938,000

Source: "Quarterly Synopsis" of actual production for the year 1922, issued by the Mexican Secretary of Agriculture.

MEXICO - PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES: IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED STATES FROM MEXICO, YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, AVERAGE, 1910-14, 1922, 1923 AND JULY TO OCTOBER, 1923.

Commodity:	: Average	:	:	:	: July to Oct.
	: 1910 - 14	:	1922	1923	: 1923
Imports:	:	:	:	:	:
Chicle.....lbs.:	2,532,193	:	5,446,716	6,229,250	: 838,795
Coffee..... "	31,220,334	:	38,444,169	39,490,998	: 1,348,803
Cotton(unman.)..... "	7,761,757	:	26,818,225	15,868,478	: 140,627
Sisal.....tons:	128,314	:	64,720	77,383	: 20,876
Ixtle..... "	9,234	:	9,232	10,818	: 4,585
Bananas.....bunches :	1,176,389	:	1,104,374	1,189,090	: 790,958
Dried peas.....Bu. : (a)	385,055	:	429,874	26,048	: —
Cattle hides.....lbs. : (b)		:			:
Dry.....:	7,284,979	:	389,328	425,597	: 48,105
Green.....:	21,109,230	:	729,280	3,866,166	: 68,010

(a) (Average 1912-14)

(b) (Average 1911-14)

SOURCE: 1910-14, Foreign Commerce and Navigation of the United States, Official Records, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 1922 and 1923.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE IMPORTS INTO UNITED STATES FROM MEXICO.

Importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from Mexico takes place almost entirely during the period December to June. The shipments consist largely of tomatoes and mixed vegetables, some onions, cantaloupes and watermelons were shipped in car lots, but vegetable shipments are largely in mixed lots with the exception of tomatoes. These shipments are intended for the winter market in the United States, consequently, from July to December there are no shipments whatever. The following table shows the data in car lots by months. It covers railroad shipments only. In other words, it is not contended that this is the total importation.

CARLOAD SHIPMENTS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES INTO THE UNITED STATES FROM MEXICO AS
REPORTED BY IMPORTING RAILROADS AT PORTS OF ENTRY. (BOAT SHIPMENTS NOT INCLUDED.)

COMMODITIES	DEC:	JAN:	FEB:	MAR:	APR:	MAY:	JUN:	JUL:	(2) TOTAL
<u>Jan. 1, 1921 to Nov. 30, 1921.</u>									
Tomatoes	(1)	13	96	240	365	147	10	-	871
Watermelons	(1)	-	-	-	-	5	5	-	10
Total	-	13	96	240	365	152	15	-	881
<u>Dec. 1, 1921 to Nov. 30, 1922.</u>									
Cantaloupes	-	-	-	-	17	27	26	1	71
Mixed Vegetables	-	7	9	15	13	25	5	-	74
Onions	-	-	2	29	-	2	1	-	34
Tomatoes	5	62	220	274	388	175	9	-	1,133
Watermelons	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	-	8
Totals	5	69	231	318	418	236	42	1	1,320
<u>Dec. 1, 1922 to Nov. 30, 1923.</u>									
Mixed Vegetables	-	10	2	27	17	11	-	-	67
Tomatoes	24	214	383	414	472	291	3	-	1,801
Cabbage	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Onions	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Cantaloupes	-	-	-	-	2	99	-	-	101
Watermelons	-	-	-	-	1	14	4	-	19
Total	24	224	385	443	493	415	7	-	1,991

NOTES: (1) No data available.

(2) No shipments reported for Aug., Sept., Oct., or Nov.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Fruit
and Vegetable Division.

MEXICO - PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES: EXPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES TO MEXICO, FISCAL YEARS, AVERAGE 1912-14, 1922, 1923 AND JULY TO OCTOBER, 1923.

Commodity:	Unit	Years ending June 30			4 mo. July
		Average	1922	1923	- October.
		1912-14			1923
Milk:					
Condensed.....	Lbs.	887,041:	1,598,032 :	1,035,976:	548,599
Evaporated.....	"	(1)	3,151,452 :	2,710,430:	822,012
Powdered.....	"	(1)	92,169 :	84,803:	34,001
Butter.....	"	308,768:	856,259 :	904,153:	249,992
Cheese.....	"	250,118:	1,497,279 :	1,037,719:	283,169
Oleomargarine.....	"	43,769:	30,555 :	31,694:	7,323
Eggs, in shell.....	Doz.	703,305:	7,179,342 :	7,338,663:	2,868,922
Breadstuffs:					
Wheat.....	Bu.	813,970:	3,000,646 :	1,260,531:	608,855
Wheat flour.....	Bbl.	31,979:	245,670 :	365,664:	172,872
Corn.....	Bu.	726,303:	10,101,521 :	288,487:	34,002
Rye.....	"	1:	211 :	1,180:	13,777
Barley.....	"	172,559:	287,865 :	120,570:	65,836
Oats.....	"	56,428:	180,070 :	146,154:	38,654
Oatmeal.....	Lbs.	297,747:	1,576,700 :	1,948,708:	781,985
Meats:					
Beef, fresh.....	Lbs.	15,361:	650,829 :	303,954:	97,674
Mutton, fresh.....	"	888:	49,698 :	50,344:	9,117
Pork, fresh.....	"	1,592:	93,344 :	81,547:	22,865
Beef, pickled and					
other cured.....	"	11,859:	30,038 :	18,460:	1,811
Pork, pickled.....	"	23,852:	6,802 :	2,893:	2,534
Bacon.....	"	321,117:	416,135 :	395,045:	141,374
Hams & shoulders..	"	690,269:	889,958 :	1,027,949:	390,793
Lard.....	"	6,709,600:	44,435,678 :	44,951,072:	13,324,306
Beef, canned.....	"	222,872:	84,093 :	81,185:	32,368
Pork, canned.....	"	45,386:	39,425 :	29,109:	8,580
Sausage, canned....	"	(2) 15,802:	81,471 :	90,186:	36,619
Livestock:					
Horses.....	No.	937:	11,747 :	3,802:	3,180
	\$	86,246:	706,371 :	141,617:	70,083
Mules.....	No.	856:	3,235 :	6,065:	3,152
	\$	89,842:	553,232 :	489,034:	191,683
Cattle.....	No.	8,348:	106,151 :	49,223:	14,143
	\$	299,716:	3,818,469 :	1,609,321:	388,970
Sheep.....	No.	6,187:	44,125 :	2,857:	1,058
	\$	24,512:	130,152 :	18,084:	5,958
Swine.....	No.	2,037:	20,739 :	4,703:	2,032
	\$	13,937:	297,174 :	81,247:	33,234

(1) Not given separately prior to 1920. (2) Two year average, 1913-14.

Source: Foreign Commerce and Navigation of the United States, 1914, and Official Record of Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 1922 and 1923.

CHICLE: IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED STATES BY COUNTRIES, YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, AVE.
1910-1914, 1921, 1922, 1923 AND JULY TO OCT. 1923.

Country	Average 1910-1914	1921	1922	1923	July to Oct. 1923
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
British Honduras...	1,136,544:	3,416,273:	2,303,204:	1,949,306:	153,290
Canada	4,815,775:	144,203:	90:	383:	---
Mexico.....	2,532,195:	4,123,950:	5,446,716:	6,229,250:	838,795
Other Countries....	92,191:	1,025,952:	533,639:	966,374:	64,829
Total.....	8,576,703:	8,710,393:	3,283,449:	9,145,318:	1,056,914

SISAL GRASS: IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED STATES BY COUNTRIES, YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, AVE.
1910-1914, 1921, 1922, 1923 AND JULY TO OCT. 1923.

Country	Average 1910-1914	1921	1922	1923	July to Oct. 1923
	Tons (2,240 lbs.)	Tons (2,240 lbs.)	Tons (2,240 lbs.)	Tons (2,240 lbs.)	Tons (2,240 lbs.)
British E. Africa..	32:	3,193:	1,316:	3,104:	722
British W. Indies..	3,147:	1,037:	964:	2,255:	543
Dutch E. Indies....	691:	8,073:	3,035:	8,932:	2,802
England (U.K.).....	648:	2,288:	770:	1,185:	90
Germany	7,157:	---	53:	370:	190
Mexico	128,314:	142,592:	64,720:	77,383:	20,876
Other Countries ...	326:	1,337:	1,454:	4,353:	3,493
Total.....	140,315:	158,520:	72,553:	97,582:	23,716

SOURCE: Foreign Commerce and Navigation of the United States 1914, and Official
Record of Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce 1922 and 1923.

Index

	Page ::		Page
Crop prospects	431 ::	Sugarbeets, production, for all	
Cotton, consumption and stocks	::	countries reporting, 1923	434
in Germany	437 ::	Trade, price, and production notes...	432
Potatoes, production, 1923	433 ::	Trade:	
MEXICO:	::	Exports-	
Agricultural situation	441 ::	Grains and wheat flour	
Acreage and production:	::	from principal exporting	
Cereals, legumes, and	::	countries, imports into	
vegetables	445 ::	United States and ship-	
Fruit and nuts	446 ::	ments of Canadian wheat	
Fiber and industrial	::	and wheat flour through	
crops	447 ::	the United States	435
Carload shipments of fruit	::	Wheat and wheat flour from	
and vegetables into the	::	the United States,	
United States, 1921-23	449 ::	October, 1922 and 1923 ::...	436
Land tax	446 ::	Principal agricultural	
Population -	::	products from the	
Area and population	444 ::	United States	439
Conservation of rural	::	Imports into United States -	
population	443 ::	Principal agricultural	
Trade -	::	Products	448
Exports, principal agri-	::	Chicle	451
cultural commodities	450 ::	Sisal grass	451

